The CBI filed charge-sheet on 22-6-1999 against 18 accused persons including the prime accused Dara Singh. One accused Sudarsh Hansda @ Chunchu Hansda, a juvenile, has already been tried and convicted by a Juvenile Court at Bhubaneswar and given the sentence of life imprisonment. He has filed an appeal before the Sessions Court which is pending disposal. Out of the remaining 17 accused, 3 are still absconding and 14 accused including Dara Singh are facing trial in the District and Sessions Court at Bhubaneswar. They are all in judicial custody. Recently the prosecution has closed its evidence. The accused persons have been examined individually U/s 313 of the Cr. P.C by the Court. Defence witnesses will be examined in the Court with effect from 7th May, 2003.

(c) No, Sir. As it is a case of murder by a group of people led by Dara Singh laws on terrorism have not been invoked.

(d) Does not arise.

Talks with ULFA

4873. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recent talks with ULFA;

(b) whether Government have entered into any joint operation with Bhutan to destroy rebel camps which are active along the border:

(c) if so, the details; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) The Government has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the fore corners of our Constitution. The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has not yet come forward for peace talks within the parameters indicated.

(b) to (d) The Government is aware about the existence of Indian Insurgent Groups camps in Bhutan territory, which are being used by them as safe havens, and for training purposes and launching of operations against Indian civilians and security forces.

The matter regarding removal of camps of Indian Insurgent Groups from Bhutan territory has been taken up from time to time with the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB). The RGOB have assured that they will not allow these elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.